



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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SCHEDULED SUMMER NATURAL GAS FILING APPROVED FOR AQUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS---- ST. JOSEPH LIGHT & POWER COMPANY

Jefferson City (April 11, 2002)---To reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas for the upcoming summer season, Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-St. Joseph Light & Power Company will increase the natural gas rates of its customers under a scheduled summer season filing approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This increase will take effect on April 12, 2002. The summer season filing covers the period of April through October.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.4893 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will increase to \$0.5550 per Ccf, an increase of approximately 6.5 cents per Ccf.

When compared to current rates, the effect of the proposed increase on a typical residential customer's bill for the summer season is an increase of \$20.50 or 8 percent.

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its supplier for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-St. Joseph Light & Power Company serves approximately 6,300 natural gas customers in the Missouri counties of Andrew, Atchison, Nodaway and Holt.